

BREWERY at THE FORKS

CANADIAN ARCHITECT AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE 2016



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Client

The Forks Renewal Corporation

Size

1750SF (renovation)
+ 2000SF (addition)

Budget

Withheld

Location

Winnipeg, MB

Status

Construction Documents

Completion

2018

The Brewery at The Forks is part addition, part renovation of a new craft brewery operating out of Winnipeg's historic Forks Market. This new venue, rising from the North corner of One Forks Market Road, will act as the anchor for the rejuvenation of the visitor experience to The Forks.

Originally a thriving transportation hub in the early 1900's, the site was home to the Great Northern Railway Stable Building and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Stable Building before being joined together by an atrium and a series of bridges in the late 1980's to create what is now known as The Forks Market.

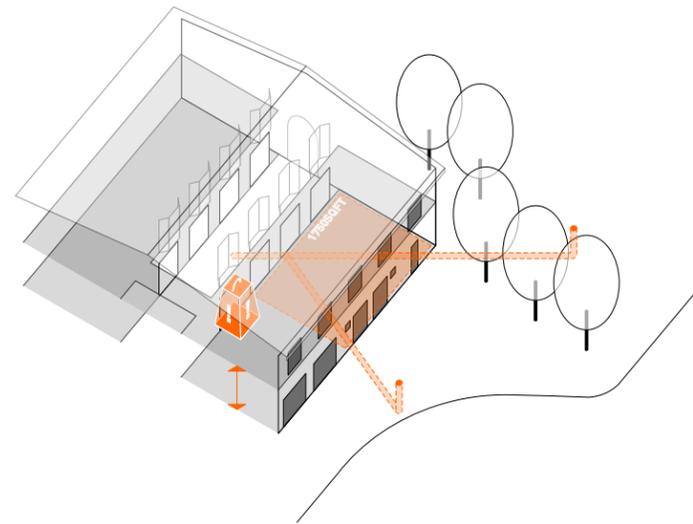
Height limitations and load constraints caused the existing market building to be unsuitable for use as a full production brewery. These restrictions, however, created an opportunity to explore a new complimentary form that draws inspiration from the original structure and the processes occurring inside. Prescribed by surrounding site constraints that included underground services, trees and the adjacent parking lot, the brewery is compressed on a small footprint. These limitations generated the need to vertically stack the three key functions of the brewing process, resulting in an archetypal design reminiscent of early gravity fed breweries.

This authentic production process, guided by gravity, begins on the roof deck of the new structure, where malted grain is pumped to a series of exterior grain bins for storage. From here, it flows to the top floor of the brewery for crushing before being transferred to the adjacent brewhouse for mashing and boiling. The product then travels down to the main floor for the final phase of production, aging in series of five tall fermentation tanks. Now at the ground level, the brewmasters and public have their first interaction as testing and tasting occur simultaneously.

Drawing on the site's industrial past, the addition interlocks with the existing building at each level of production, articulated geometrically as a series of cogs in the unique brewing process. On the exterior, a dual purpose steel skin wraps the structure providing support for the significant lateral loads that result from the structure's high centre of gravity in addition to framing a series of apertures. These slivers provide small glimpses of the process within to create intrigue and encourage the public to step inside to comprehend and appreciate the full process. A new entrance folds into the existing market building at the ground floor, revealing an intimate tap room inside the exiting market.

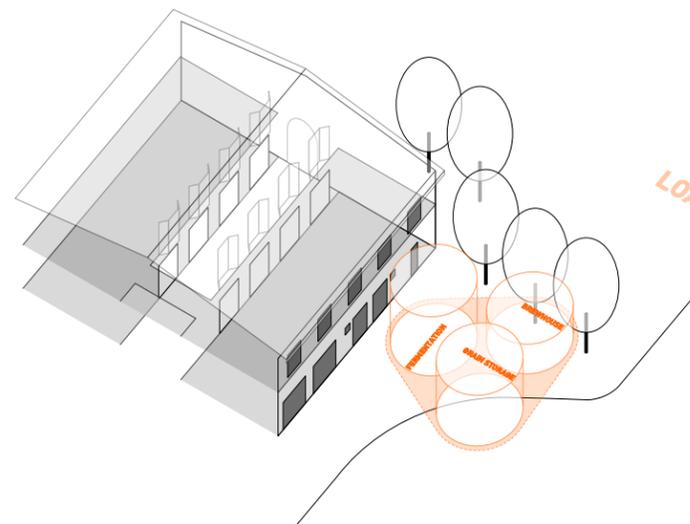
The round geometry of the addition not only reflects the aesthetic of a machine in constant operation, but also guides circulation from the tap room up through the addition, allowing the brewmasters and public to interact throughout the space and exposing the brewing process without interrupting production at each level.

Located at what was once considered the back end of the building, the structure announces a period of renewal at The Forks. The Brewery will act as a beacon for the next phase of development, building on the sites industrial past and looking northwards to the future Forks Railside Development.



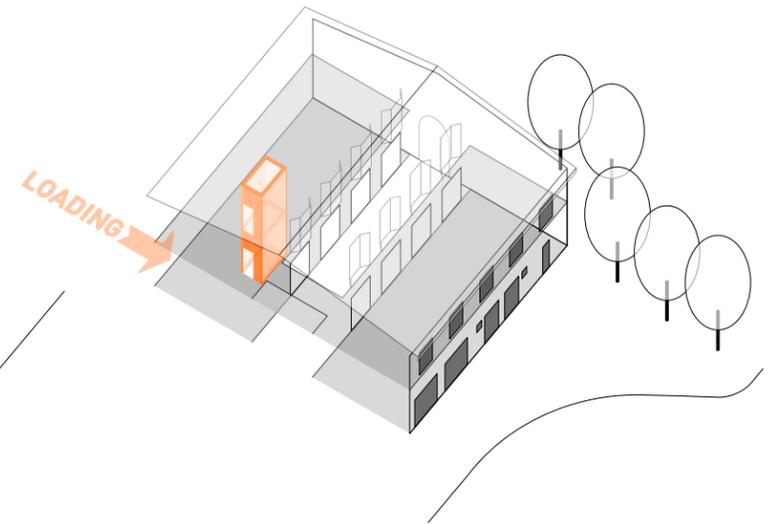
existing market

Even though 1750 sqft of existing market space was available, the space was not sufficient for use as a brewery due to height and load requirements. An opportunity to locate the brewery outside the market was created.



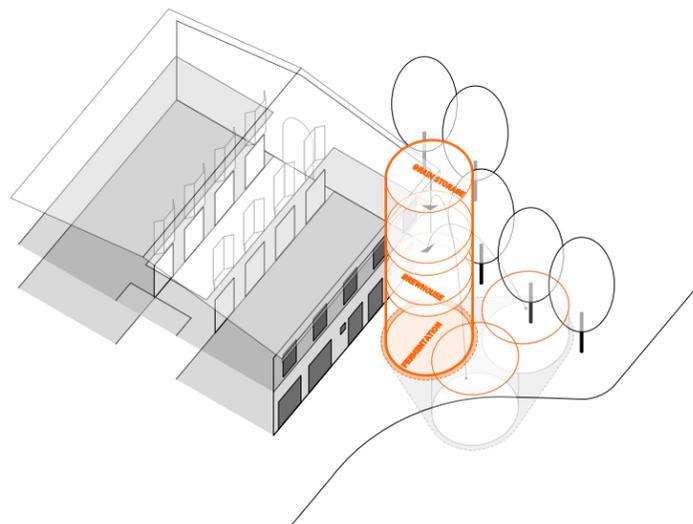
compressed

Constraints such as the adjacent parking lot, trees, and underground service locations compressed the footprint of the site. The limited footprint available was not large enough to hold the program requirements on a single floor.



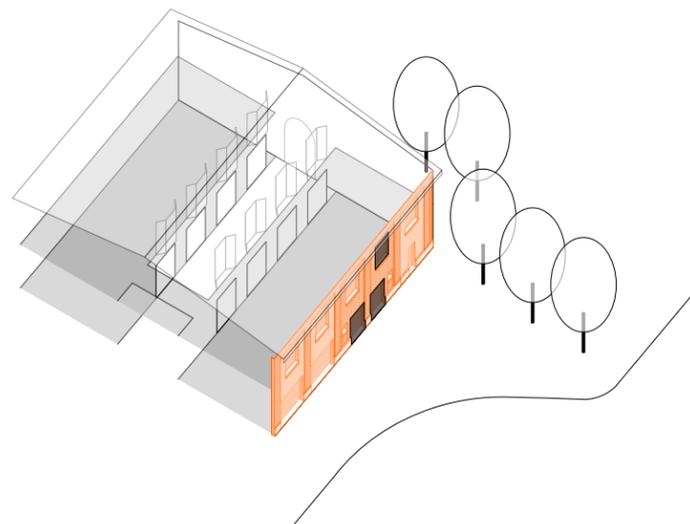
access

An existing freight elevator and adjacent loading zone made vertically stacking the key functions of the brewery feasible.



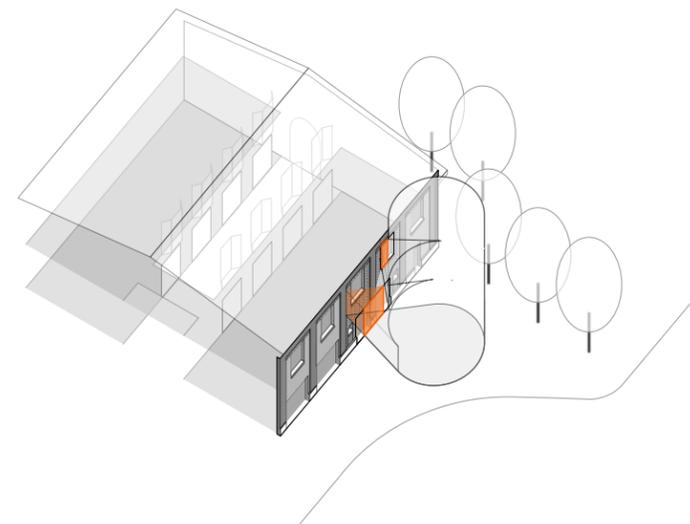
vertical

The three key functions of the brewery are stacked. Grain storage is located at the roof level, the brewery located on the second floor, and the final stage of production, fermentation, is situated on the ground level.



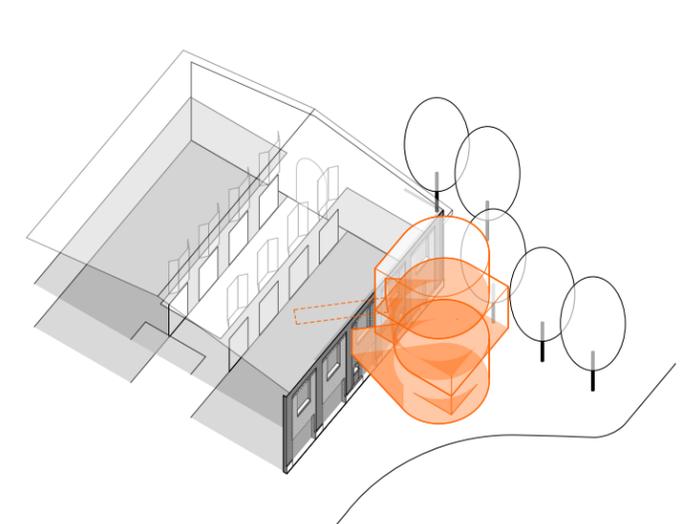
heritage

The Forks Market is a significant historic building.



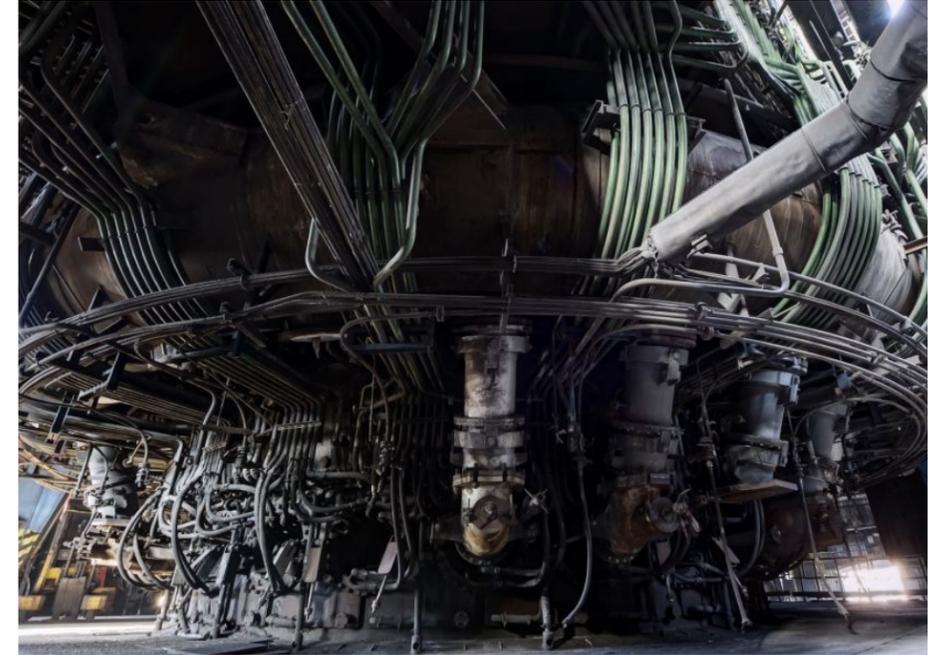
careful insertion

Connecting the brewery to the ground and second floor of the market required a careful review of the existing openings, limiting connections between new and old.



geometry

Overall geometry of the brewery builds upon creating aperture access service and viewing.



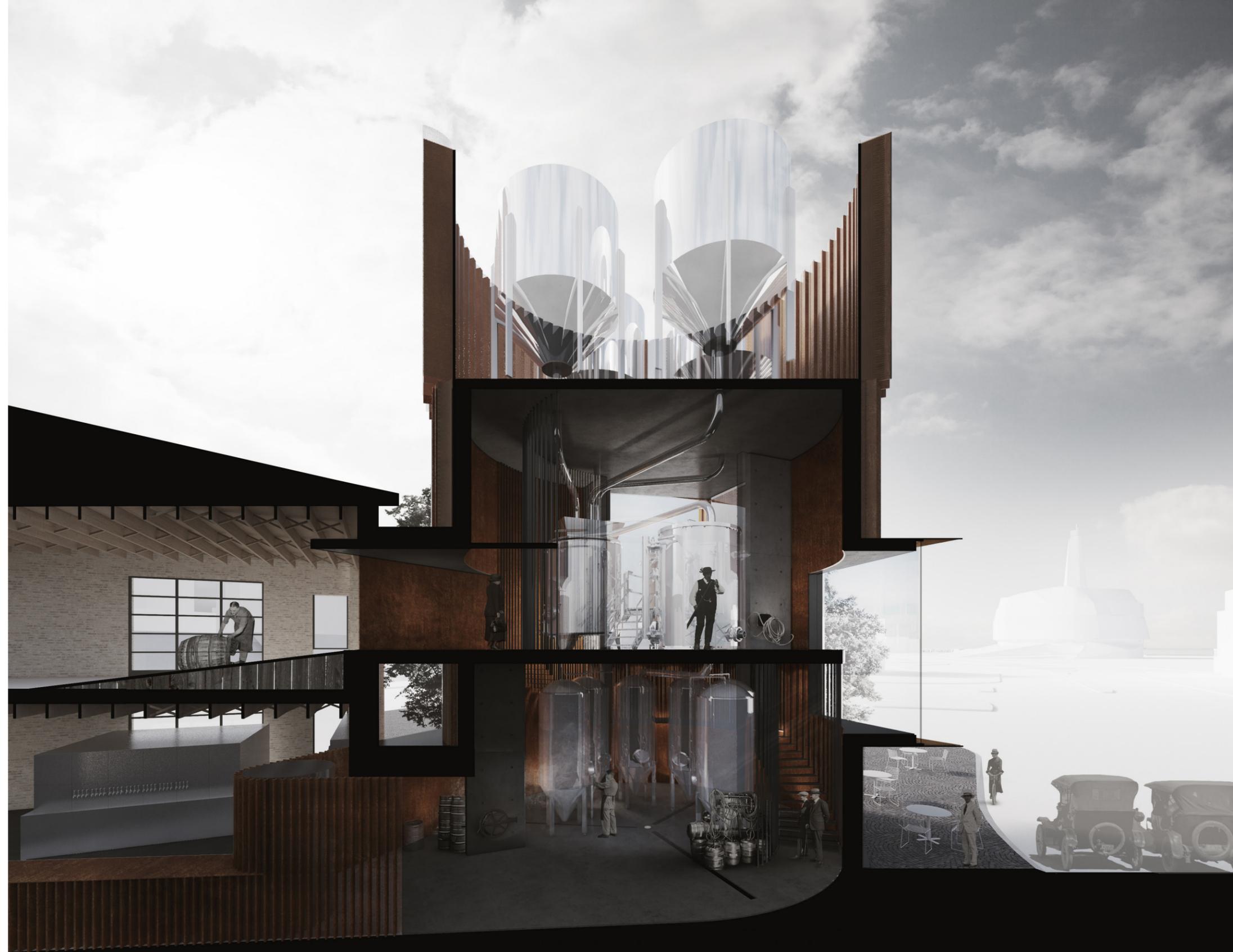
historical context

The Forks has a long history as a site brimming with industrial activity. An important transportation route in the in the 1800's, the site of The Forks was a significant meeting point throughout the fur trade. When grain became one of western Canada's largest industries in the 1880's, the site of The Forks quickly grew into one of the most important hubs for rail transportation. Winnipeg soon became known as the, "Gateway to the West," attracting many prominent rail companies to join in the boom.

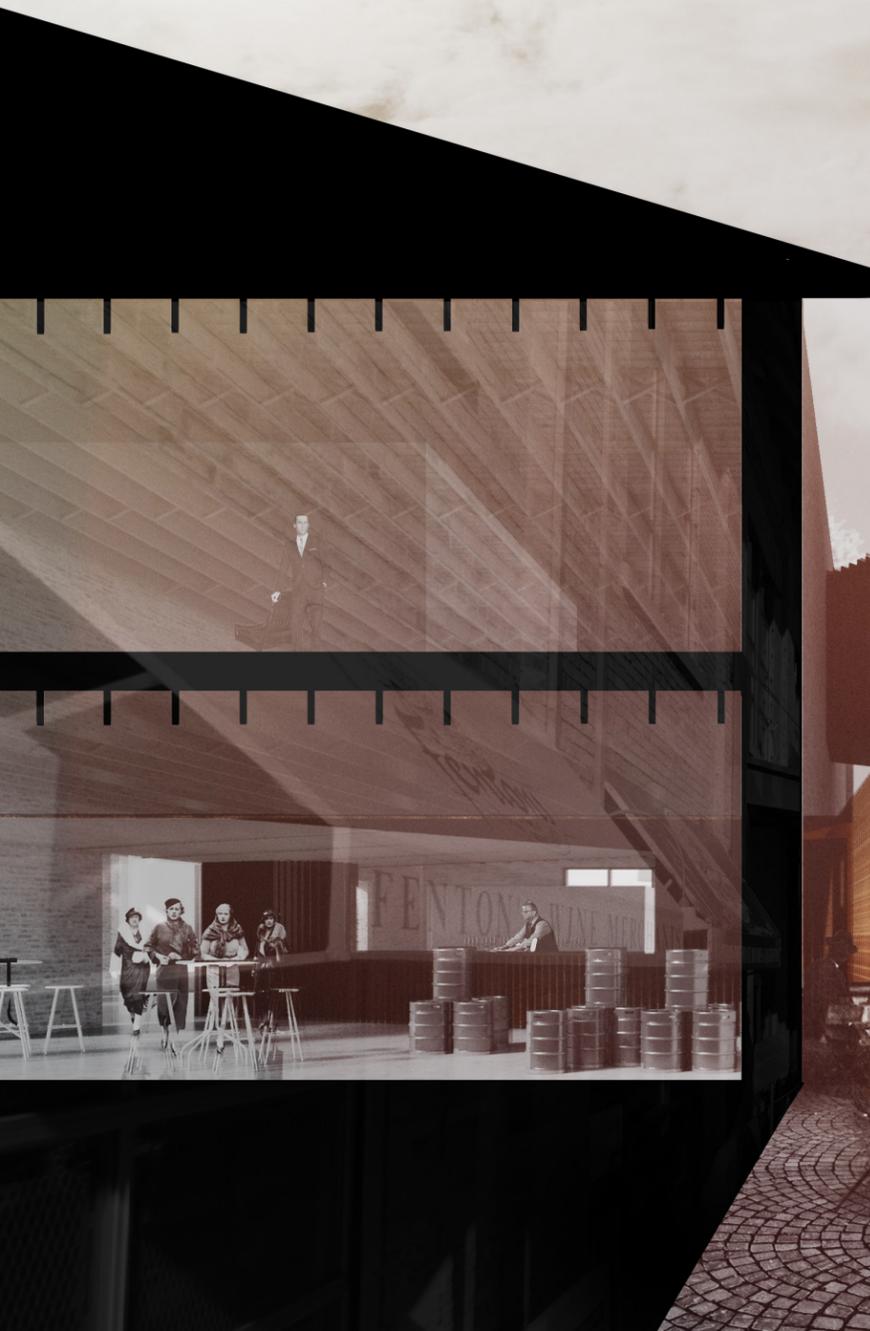
The Forks still boasts many of the original railway stables and buildings including the National Cartage Building, now home to the Johnston Terminal; the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway Company's Buildings and the Bridges Buildings which are now home to The Manitoba Children's Museum; the Northern Railway Stable Building and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Stable Building, now joined together to form The Forks Market.

embracing a raw aesthetic

Just as The Forks encourages the "daily life" of the market to occur in plain sight, the brewery takes inspiration from the machine-like qualities of the equipment and processes within. From the materials used, primarily concrete and corten, to the decision to keep the dynamic workings of the brewing process exposed [pumps, drains, piping], the design for the brewery embraces and celebrates the industrial aesthetic.



sectional perspective - brewery

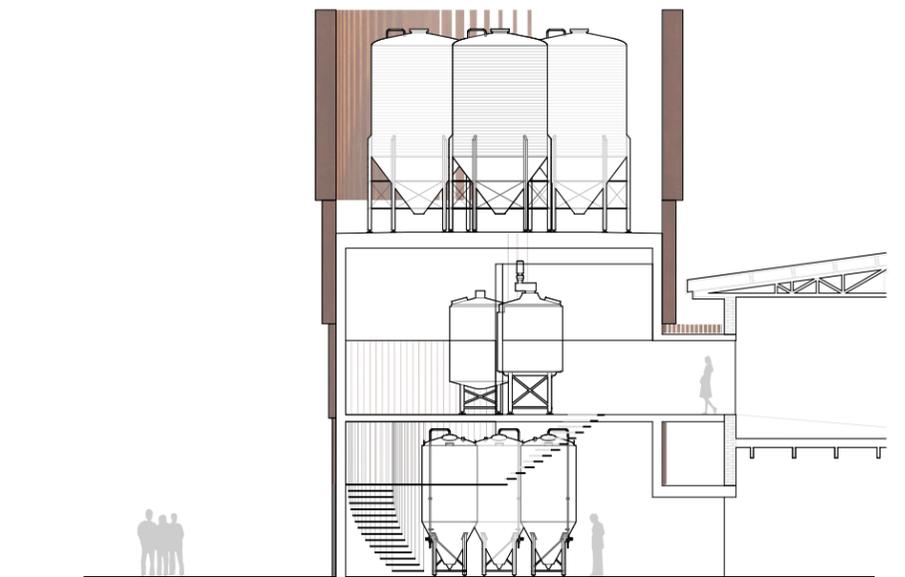


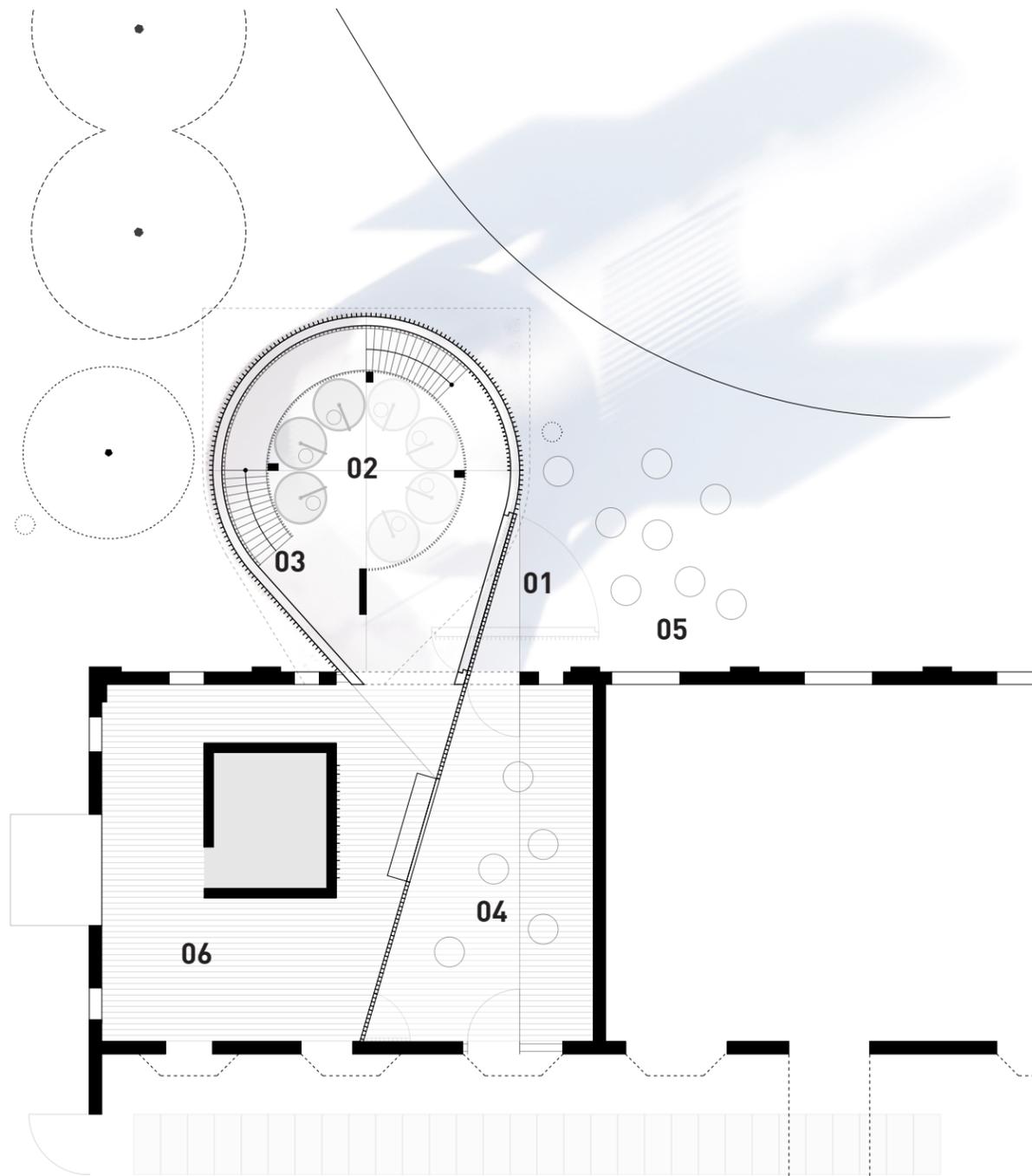
perspective - patio



interconnected

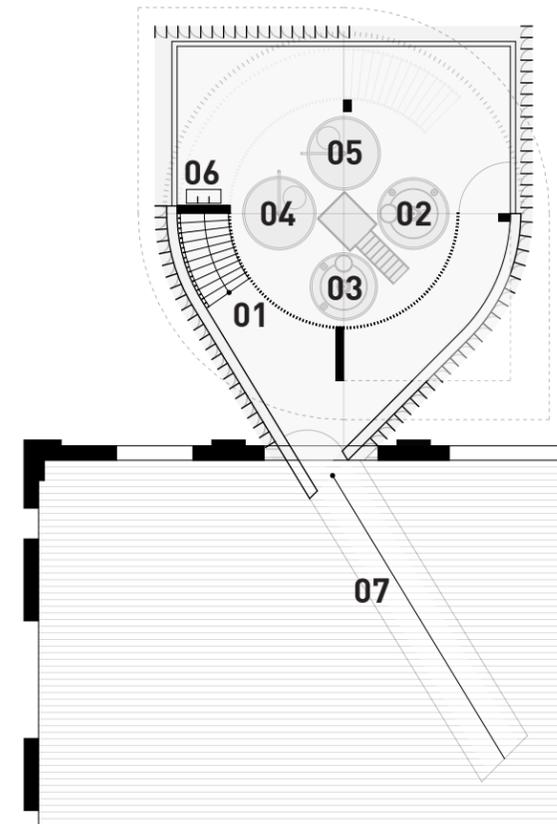
The brewery addition interlocks and injects itself into the market building. From the ground floor, a new entry to The Forks Market folds into the existing building, revealing an intimate tap room nestled inside the northern corner of the market. The second level of the brewery feeds into the second floor of the market building by way of a steel ramp. The ramp not only serves as a means to transport product into and out of the upper levels of the brewery, but also as a projection reaching into the Market, inviting visitors in to freely explore the brewery and processes hidden within.





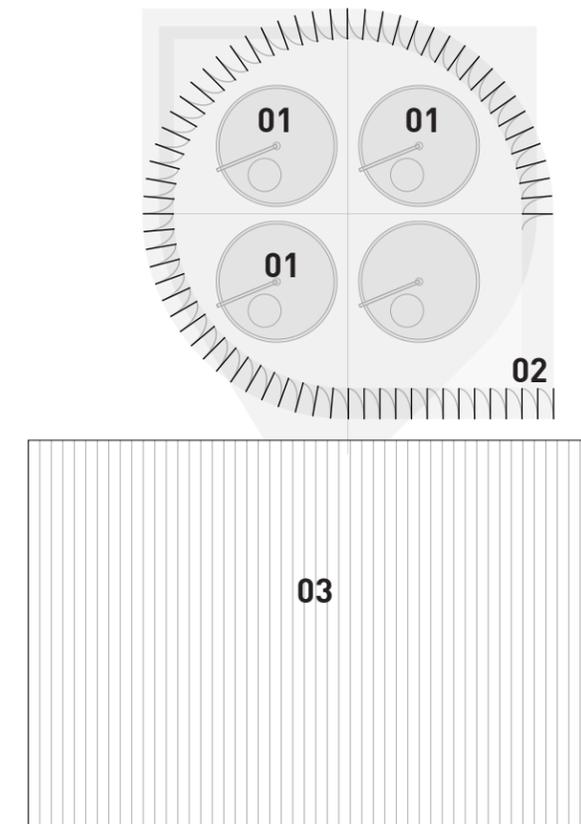
🕒 **level one (fermentation)**

- 01 new main entry
- 02 fermentation tanks
- 03 stair up to brewhouse
- 04 tap room (tasting)
- 05 patio
- 06 back of house (storage, cooling block, keging etc.)



🕒 **level two (brewhouse)**

- 01 stair down to fermentation
- 02 brew kettle (boiling)
- 03 lauter tun (mashing)
- 04 cold liquor tank
- 05 hot liquor tank
- 06 utility sink
- 07 ramp through to market



🕒 **level three (grain storage)**

- 01 grain bins
- 02 ladder
- 03 forks market existing roof



market interior - taproom

apertures

Glimpses of the brewery interior are revealed through four distinct apertures. Each opening, straddled between two floors, enables one to create a visual connection between phases of the process. From outside, one can begin to make sense of the activities occurring inside of the structure as the apertures guide your vision up, creating a vertical narrative of daily workings inside the brewery.





PATRONIZE
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BREWERY

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THE TROIKS

WALKWAY
BUS STOP

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